

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01996 171948Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 EA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /101 W
-----004568 172301Z /61

P 171949Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1410
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01996

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, MARR, MOPS, FJ, LE, IS
SUBJECT: UNIFIL: FIJI CONTINGENT PREPARATION

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLMIN AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION MAY 16, FIJI PERM REP VUNIBOBO REPORTED THAT THE FIJI UNIFIL CONTINGENT HAS JUST ABOUT COMPLETED ITS PREPARATIONS FOR JOINING UNIFIL IN LEBANON. HE SAID HE HAD NO INVOLVEMENT IN THE MILITARY PREPARATION OF THE CONTINGENT, BUT HE HAD ASKED HIS GOVERNMENT FOR ORDERS TO RETURN HOME BEFORE THE CONTINGENT'S DEPARTURE TO PERMIT HIM TO BRIEF THE CONTINGENT'S OFFICERS ON THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF UNIFIL'S MISSION. HE SAID IT WAS HIS EXPERIENCE WITH FIJI'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MALAYSIAN UN OPERATION SOME YEARS AGO THAT THE MILITARY OFFICERS PERFORMED BETTER WITH A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE BACKGROUND SURROUNDING THE MISSION THEY ARE ASKED TO UNDERTAKE.

2. POLMIN COMPLIMENTED VUNIBOBO ON THE WISDOM OF HIS INSTINCT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE WOULD INDEED HAVE AN
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OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF THE FIJI CONTINGENT. WE OFFERED VUNIBOBO ANY FURTHER BACKGROUND DISCUSSION WITH USUN THAT HE MIGHT THINK USEFUL FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND VUNIBOBO SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY BE IN TOUCH.

3. AS HE USUALLY DOES WHEN DISCUSSING FIJI'S UNIFIL COMMITMENT, VUNIBOBO SPOKE AT LENGTH OF THEIR NATIONAL

PRIDE IN THIS PARTICIPATION AND THE ILLUSTRIOUS RECORD
CREATED BY THE FIJI CONTINGENT IN MALAYSIA. HE WAS ALMOST
EQUALLY PROUD OF THE OUTSTANDING INTRA-MURAL SPORTS RECORD
THE FIJIAN UN CONTINGENT LEFT IN MALAYSIA. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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